

USERS' NEWS

JUNE, 1981

VOL. 2, NO. 5

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

Election of officers for the next term of office for 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON will be held at the June 3, 1981 meeting of the club.

All members of the club are urged to attend so that each and every member has a say in who is going to lead the club.

To review part of the By-Laws of our group, "A group member is one who as paid current membership dues. Only members may vote at Club meetings..."

A President, Vice-President/Treasurer and Secretary are to be elected for the next term.

The person receiving the most votes for each position will be elected to fill each place on the Executive Committee.

Interested in Forth?

The Houston Area Forth Interest Group (HAFIG) will sponsor a course on Forth programming beginning with Saturday, May 30.

The course is being presented in conjunction with the Houston Area Apple Users Group (HAAUG).

Location of the course, which will begin at 12:00 noon, will be the same meeting room at the University of Texas School of Public Health in the Medical Center where 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON meets.

The course will deal with the structure of Forth and Forth programming techniques. The first few lectures will be oriented to the novice Forth programmer who has a fair knowledge of Basic.

Dr. Roger Knapp of Baylor College of Medicine will be the lecturer.

Materials required for the course are a copy of the '78 Forth, which HAFIG has prepared for HAAUG (DOS 3.2 compatible), copies of excerpts from a variety of FIG publications, lecture notes and copies of articles relating to Forth. Those attending must provide a DOS 3.2 initialized disk so they may obtain a copy of '78 Forth.

The course will be comprised of 6 sessions, meeting on the last Saturday of each month.

The version of Forth to be used in the course has been designed to run on APPLES, however the course will not be limited to APPLE users. The course will be broad enough for other microcomputer owners to benefit from the course.

Currently, the HAFIG has Forth available for TRS-80's, ATARI's, and several other computers.

Contact MARTY EDELSTEIN at 729-4199 for more information.

NEXT MEETING

Date: JUNE 3, 1981

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Program: TC-8 cassette loader & The Patch by RUSSELL POPE
CCA Database by Bill Grubbs

DIALOGUE Database by Ed Escadero
(live demonstration)

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Hint

TRS-80 is a trade-
mark of Tandy Corp.

The Forth Interest Group (FIG) has over 2,500 members throughout the U.S. & 34 countries. Membership to FIG is available for \$ 12.00 per year. Write P.O. BOX 1105, SAN CARLOS CALIFORNIA, 94070.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT BY BILL YOUNG

We will be electing new Officers this month and I would like to thank everyone who helped this past six months. The job of President is quite simple...when everyone pitches in and contributes. I would especially like to thank Brigitte and John Schaefer for their exceptional efforts on the newsletter.

The Club has three Officers...President, Vice-President/Treasurer and Secretary. These Officers are in charge of running the Club. Their jobs are to direct the Club's activities and to be responsive to the members' interests.

The President co-ordinates the officers' activities and plans the meetings. The Vice-President/Treasurer takes care of the finances and assists the President. The Secretary keeps a record of the meetings' activities and is responsible for the newsletter.

The Club's Officers are responsible for keeping the Club operating smoothly, without a great amount of time spent during meetings on Club business. The basic theory is that the Officers will be available for comments or suggestions throughout the month, and they will make the necessary decisions without creating debates and time consuming discussion during the meetings. Since we only meet once a month, we want our meetings to be primarily concerned with new ideas and helpful talks by our speakers.

The current Officers will recommend a slate of new Officers and nominations will be taken from the members at the meeting. The recommended slate is to ensure that these are members who are willing to serve as Officers. This in no way indicates that we feel these are the only members capable of serving as Officers.

The officers you elect this June meeting will serve until the December meeting. Please try to be present at this meeting so you may have a vote in your Club's leadership.

80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON meets the first Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in microcomputers is welcome to join our group. Membership dues are \$5.00 per calendar year, which includes your subscription to **USERS' NEWS**.

USERS' NEWS

EDITOR: Brigitte Schaefer
PRODUCTION: John Schaefer
THE PROGRAM DOCTOR: E. Wood
A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:
Bill Young
TAPE LIBRARY: Floyd Atkinson
MICRONET NEWS: Ben Taylor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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P. O. Box 20000, No. 220
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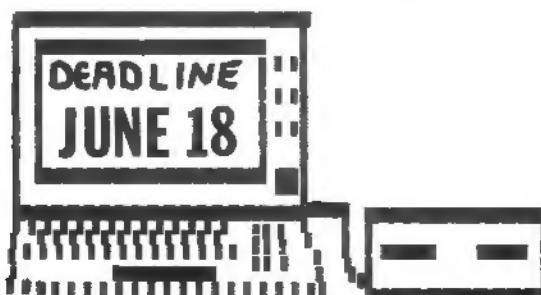
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DEADLINE: 15th of month prior to publication.

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PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO COMPILE A "MEMBER'S HANDBOOK" FOR 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON. PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FULLY AND RETURN TO USERS' NEWS WITHIN 10 DAYS. MAIL TO P.O. BOX 20000, #220, HOUSTON, TEXAS, 77025. UPON RECEIPT OF ALL FORMS, THE MEMBERS HANDBOOK WILL BE COMPILED AND PRINTED. ANY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE EDITOR, 663-7293.

=====

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

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SYSTEM _____ MEMORY SIZE _____

MODEM _____ PRINTER _____

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STOCKS _____ PERSONAL FINANCE _____ GAMES _____

HARDWARE _____ PROGRAMMING: BASIC _____ ASSEMBLY _____

OTHER LANGUAGES _____

TIME SHARING NETWORKS: SOURCE _____ MICRONET _____ OTHER _____

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS _____

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEMBERSHIPS _____

SOFTWARE YOU FEEL RATES IN THE "TOP 10" _____

HARDWARE YOU FEEL RATES IN THE "TOP 10" _____

OTHER INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP:

HOW WOULD YOU PREFER MEMBER'S HANDBOOK? BOOKLET _____ LOOSE LEAF _____ OTHER _____

THE PROGRAM DOCTOR.....

HAVING A PROBLEM WITH YOUR BASIC PROGRAMS? Ask the PROGRAM DOCTOR for help. Send your programs on cassette or printed list for testing. The PROGRAM DOCTOR will also try to help with other system programs and answer programming questions.

KNOW OF A PROGRAM IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE (LIKE COBOL OR FORTRAN) THAT YOU WANT TO USE ON YOUR TRS-80? ASK THE PROGRAM DOCTOR TO HELP YOU TRANSLATE IT INTO BASIC SO YOUR TRS-80 CAN UNDERSTAND IT. MAIL PROBLEMS TO THE PROGRAM DOCTOR, C/O USERS' NEWS, P.O. BOX 20000 #220, HOUSTON, TEXAS, 77025.

THE PROGRAM DOCTOR (Emory C. Wood) received a A.A.S. Data Processing from Lee Jr. College and his B.S. in Engineering Technology from Lamar University. He worked in programming for the City of Baytown for 1 1/2 years and was the Systems Programmer for Cravens Dargan & Co. for over 3 1/2 years. He is now working with the computers at Joy Petroleum. He has had experience in various languages: Cobol, Basic, Fortran, RPG, ALC, Compass and Easycoder. He owns a TRS-80 Level II, 16k.

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* * *

WANT TO BUY----Expansion Interface, 32k, for Model I...price must be reasonable....R.D. MAYNARD.... 527-5160..8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F.

* * *

HELP WANTED--Someone who is sharp in BASIC to modify a Bowling Statistics Program..R.D. MAYNARD... 527-5160..8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F.

* * *

WANTED--Persons interested in Machine Language Programming to form ML class. Contact ROBER RABB at.... 495-6804..Rabb has taught 2 ML classes for 80 CUH. Rabb also needs a location for the class to meet.

* * *

BULLETIN BOARD NOS.

local 331-3776
local 331-2599
local 654-0759 (Apple)
local 528-7025 (Mailboard)
1-693-3462 (Young Elec)
(College Station)

If you know of any others, send them to USERS' NEWS.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CORNSOFT GROUP AND ADVENTURE INTERNATIONAL:

I can understand a poorly written program, but a good program should have good trimmings. I am referring to MISSILE ATTACK.

The program begins with the computer asking the users what type of system is being used. This is nice, but serves no purpose. Upon disassembly, I have found that no changes are made for choices of TRS-80 Model I or PMC-80. One unnecessary change is made with the TRS-80 Model III choice, however all three versions work on my TRS-80 Model I, 16k. But, I guess you put this part in as standard on all programs and earns you plenty of "brownie points".

Next, a beautiful screen by Adventure International showing their logo. Very nice...as a matter of fact, GREAT!!!

After a short wait (not long enough to really enjoy such fancy graphics), the Title Page appears, and then the program itself. What if I'm not ready? This is one of the worst features...the program begins itself. Is it above your programming talents to write a routine for the user to hit a key to continue? I certainly hope not. That way the user can begin the game when HE is ready, not the computer.

The sound on your program is a joke. How about keeping it close to a constant volume level? It would be nice. Also, whenever a clear screen is done, a click can be heard from the keyboard....no, it is not the sound effects....it is your attempt to damage my cassette relay. Inside the keyboard is a little relay that makes the sound and is easy to break. I have modified the program to omit this click and I urge others to do the same.

In summary, the program is rather well written and enjoyable, despite the few problems. I feel that if the programmers had spent just a little more time, they could have produced a nicer program in all respects, however I can see no excuse for causing the cassette relay to click. The program does not even come close to 16k, so I feel you should have used this extra memory for correcting the problems and improving the program.

ROBERT EDEN

(note: The object of the game is to protect your three cities from enemy laser attack. To perform this, you have two laser bases. These lasers intercept the enemy's beams. A cursor is moved about the screen by using the 4 arrow keys. The left and right silos are fired with the =@= key and the spacebar, respectively. After one array of attacking lasers is stopped, a bonus score is calculated from the remaining energy pellets (laser shots) & cities remaining. Also, after the third screen, your score is automatically multiplied by a value shown, which will be incremented after the next round.)

HINT

If your computer doesn't come on, the power supply fuse may be blown. Unplug the power supply. If the cord running from the power supply to the computer is BLACK, pull off the rubber feet on the bottom and unscrew the base to open and check the fuse. If the cord is GREY, carefully cut the P.S. along the seam and separate to open and check the fuse. In either case, replace the 1/2 amp fast blow fuse with a 3/4 amp fast blow fuse & solder in.



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